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THE COCA-COLA CONSPIRACY {page 19}

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NEW YORK
Tuesday, December 11, 2012

music

Two sides of Band of Horses

Want a wild rock show? Or do you dig acoustic? BoH do one of each tonight {page 21}

books

Dolly Parton told ya so

The country music legend shares some slogans to help you 'Dream More' {page 20}

Police hunt for a suspect that fatally shot a man in the head yesterday afternoon, then fled in a silver vehicle Victim, 31 years old, had California identification {page 02}

MILES DIXON/METRO

Cops search for Columbus Circle killer

▶ Police investigate after a man was shot in the head on this street.

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California man murdered near Columbus Circle

A man was shot once at close range in the back of the head on 58th Street between Seventh Avenue and Broadway around 2 p.m. yesterday, cops said.

The address of the shooting was 202 West 58th Street, according to cops, which is the location of the St. Thomas Choir School.

The shooting was near Columbus Circle, an area often packed with people.

The NYPD described the victim as a 31-year-old black male whose identification indicated he was from Los Angeles. The gunman approached him from behind as they were passing the school, cops said.

The victim was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Police are investigating and trying to track down the suspect, who escaped by car.

Cops described the suspect as a black male wearing a dark coat with a hood and khaki pants.

After shooting the victim, he turned and got in the passenger side of a silver or gray car, police said, which turned south on Seventh Avenue. The driver was not identified.

Bystanders near the scene expressed shock at a murder.

"I'm around here all the time," said Tawnya Calzada, 22, who attends the nearby Art Students League of New York.

"You can usually feel pretty safe around here," she said.

Retail worker Dennis Goldberg, 27, added, "This city scares me sometimes."

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

— Miles Dixon contributed reporting.

▶ Police cordoned off the street where the shooting took place.

MILES DIXON/METRO

In the news

'Counselor' convicted of child sex abuse

BROOKLYN. Nechemya Weberman, 54, was convicted of sexual abuse of a young girl throughout several years, Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes announced yesterday. Weberman was an unlicensed therapist and the victim was his adolescent client. The abuse began when she was 12 and lasted three years, prosecutors said. Weberman faces a maximum of 117 years in prison. METRO/DT

In the news

Stun guns seized at JFK

QUEENS. TSA screeners busted a Dominican Republic-bound man from the Bronx with 26 stun guns in his luggage at JFK on Friday morning, TSA officials reported. Stun guns are illegal to possess in New York. The TSA officers notified the Port Authority Police Department, who arrested the passenger.

METRO/DT

Stepping from the shadows

A presidential order gives hopes to high school and college students
City Council meets today to talk about how to better help locals apply

After 25 years, Daniela Alulema might be able to finally step out of the shadows.

Alulema, 25, is a Ridgewood undocumented immigrant, one of tens of thousands hoping to stay in New York City legally after President Barack Obama announced this summer that people like her could apply for a deportation reprieve.

The city estimates that as many as 60,000 residents could be eligible, many who are high school or college students.

The president's directive means that for the first time, immigrants that came here illegally as children might be able to apply to stay, legally.

People that can prove, among other things, they arrived before age 16 and were here June 15, the day Obama signed the order, may get a work permit and a two-year reprieve from the threat of deportation.

Today, the City Council will discuss whether people applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals are getting enough local help.

The city promised to provide documents immigrants might need, like Department of Education school or immunization records to prove children's presence.

"Despite that, some of the things we've heard from the applicants and others is that they still face a lot of obstacles," said Councilman Daniel Dromm, who heads the Council's Immigration Committee.

Visiting a high school, he said, he asked teens if they had heard about DACA. Many hadn't.

"They perked up in the classroom and asked me a number of questions," he said.

About 250 people attended DACA workshops at the undocumented youth-led New York State Youth Leadership Council, where Alulema is a member. Another will be Dec. 11.

Alulema filed her paperwork in September, collecting school records from Baruch College and documents from her doctor. A paycheck and a Foursquare restaurant check-in proved she was here June 15, she said.

"I pretty much had to turn my house upside down," she said. Now, she waits. A friend recently got her approval in the mail, cause for celebration.

"A work permit would be a nice Christmas gift for all of us," Alulema said.

▶ Hundreds of immigrants attended several legal workshops.

NEW YORK STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

What do immigrants have to prove?

For many, the order means that a life lived while undocumented suddenly requires getting together documents. Among other things, people who can apply must prove they were younger than 31 as of June 15, arrived before age 16 and have lived in the U.S. continuously since June 15, 2007.

They also must prove they have not been convicted of a felony. The process is not yet for, the mayor's office cautions, legal status or a path to legalization.

For Alulema, even filing was a leap of faith.

Her parents are not eligible to apply, she said, and she filed documents with addresses and family names.

"We made the decision as a family, and I think in order to get some kind of reward you have to take a risk, and we did that," she said.

Quoted

"This is exactly the kind of opportunity I've been waiting for."
ALULEMA

60K
Estimated number of eligible people

Quoted

"Many of them are closeted, so to speak, about their status. ... Many don't know they could even ask for help."
DROMM

ALISON BOWEN
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In the news

Elderly woman mugged in West Village elevator

WEST VILLAGE. An 85-year-old woman was robbed on West 13th Street in the West Village on Saturday night around 10:50 p.m. According to police, she was followed into the building by a black male approximately 35 years old, 6-foot to 6-foot-3, 200 to 230 pounds and wearing a brown sweatshirt and brown winter hat. The man followed her into the elevator, knocked her to the ground and robbed her. She was not injured. METRO/DT

Cops shoot man who had fake gun

RIDGEWOOD. In a Ridgewood drug bust Saturday night, two plainclothes narcotics detectives were in the process of arresting a drug dealer, Nolan Rivera, in a "buy and bust" operation when another man pointed what they said looked like a Glock handgun but was later discovered to be an air gun at them, the NYPD said. They fired a total of six rounds, shooting him three times in the leg and torso. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. The deceased reportedly had 39 prior arrests. Rivera was taken to the hospital after swallowing what investigators believe was crack cocaine. METRO/DT

MTA considers an $8 raise to unlimited cards

The MTA has reportedly come to a decision among proposals for the upcoming fare hike, preferring a model that will increase the limited by $8 and the base fare by a quarter, according to news reports yesterday.

The model, given as Proposal A, involved the lowest increase to the monthly unlimited, from $104 to $112, as well as a base fare hike from $2.25 to $2.50.

MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz told Metro yesterday that the news reports "are premature."

"The chairman is discussing alternatives with the board and will be making his recommendation in writing to the Board … later this week" or over the weekend, Ortiz said.

He did not respond as to whether those "alternatives" would involve proposals other than the four that have so far been put forward.

Ortiz reiterated that the proposal will be voted on at the Dec. 19 board meeting, and the hike would not take effect until March 2013.

Lhota has previously indicated a desire to keep the impact on monthly unlimited riders low, as they make up the largest proportion of the city's straphangers.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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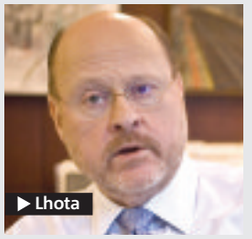
A fare hike amid mayoral rumors

News of a fare hike arrives as MTA Chairman Joe Lhota is rumored to be considering a mayoral run. Lhota has consistently denied he is running for mayor, although the Daily News reported on Friday that Lhota had "enlisted" his wife to explore the viability of running a mayoral election campaign.

Supporters, including Monday's addition of state Conservation Party Chairman Mike Long, have been emphasizing his former position as deputy mayor and budget director under former mayor Rudy Giuliani. Lhota himself made a brief mention of his past experience in city government at the recent Hudson Yards groundbreaking, telling reporters at the time that he originally had the idea for the Hudson Yards development.



▶ Lhota

Pet. Adoption

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Taxi drivers suing city over new official cab

NISSAN

▶ Taxi drivers want more choice among vehicles.

New York City taxi fleet operators have sued the city over rules that make a Nissan vehicle the city's official cab.

The plaintiffs, who include the Committee for Taxi Safety and Taxifleet Management LLC, said the city and other defendants exceeded their powers under law in selecting the "entirely untested" Nissan NV200 as the only authorized taxi, according to a Nov. 28 complaint in state Supreme Court.

"Taxicab medallion and vehicle owners, who have long been permitted to choose from among dozens of different vehicles made by numerous different manufacturers, will have all choices eliminated and will instead be required to purchase and drive the NV200 only," the taxi operators said in the complaint.

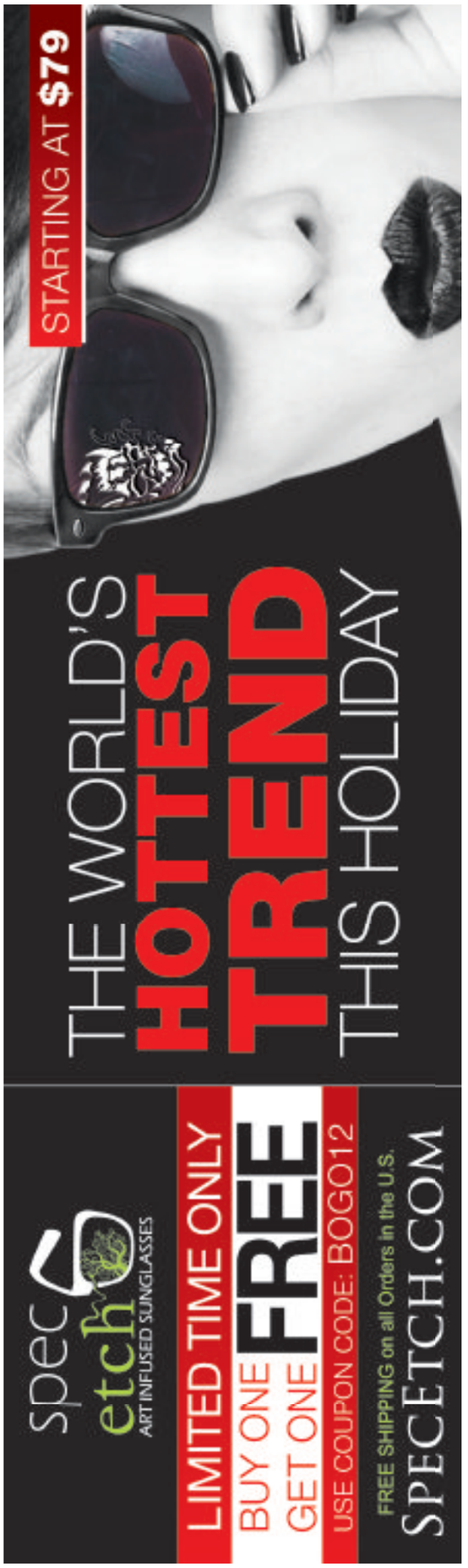
Quoted

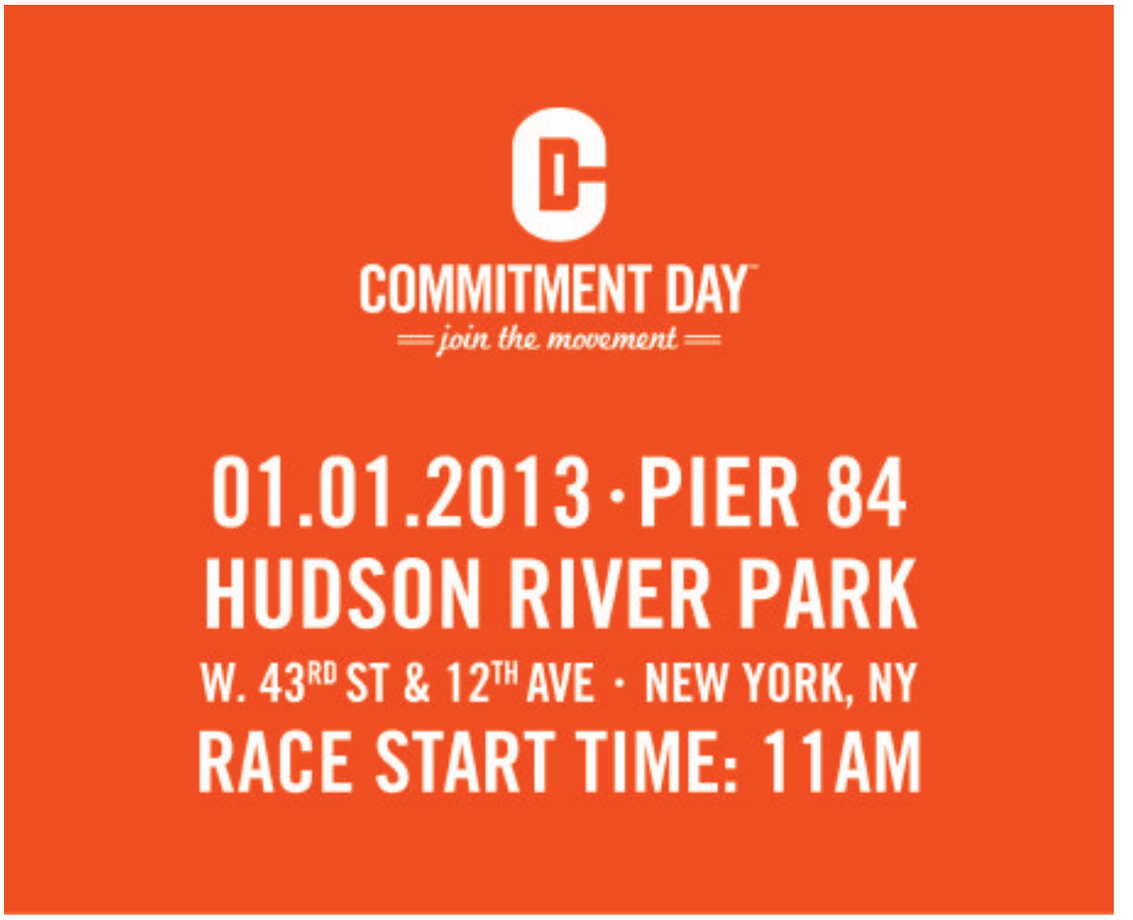
"We believe the suit lacks merit."
AHLERS

According to the complaint, the Nissan NV200 is untested in city stop-and-go traffic, uses "outdated engineering, design and technology," doesn't employ hybrid or electric power, wouldn't be able to withstand years of cab usage and would require replacement parts manufactured outside the U.S.

"These new rules will improve service to the riding public without harming the industry, as the plaintiffs allege," Kate O'Brien Ahlers, a spokeswoman for the city's law department, said in an e-mailed statement. "We believe the suit lacks merit."

Also sued were the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, its commissioner, David Yassky, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the majority owner of Bloomberg News' parent company. **BLOOMBERG**





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In the news

City official calls for recognition of mixed races

NEW YORK. Councilmember Margaret Chin introduced a new law yesterday mandating that city-issued forms provide the option to identify as mixed race or select more than one ethnicity. The 2000 census was the first time people could identify as more than one race, which over 2.4 million people did. By 2010, that number increased to 9 million. **METRO/DT**

"Everyone has the right to ... self-representation, and the government should be the first to recognize and uphold that right."
CHIN

Official pushes for bus letter grades

NEW YORK. Councilmember Jessica Lappin put forward a resolution yesterday urging the MTA to instate a letter-grading system for all buses. The system would run on an A through F scale, similar to the restaurant-grading system. The MTA conducts surveys on customer satisfaction with overall bus service. "A letter grade system would help the MTA make our local buses cleaner and more efficient," Upper East Side resident Susan Giles said. **METRO/DT**

Woman found dead in Queens home

ELMHURST. A 62-year-old woman was found dead on Sunday morning in Queens. At 8:20 a.m., police responded to reports of a bad smell in a 54th Avenue residence and found Lorraine Cetrone stabbed in the back. They also discovered a white 63-year-old male stabbed in the chest but in stable condition. **METRO/DT**

Strauss-Kahn, maid settle civil case for undisclosed amount

Dominique Strauss-Kahn and a hotel maid who accused the former International Monetary Fund chief of sexually assaulting her in a New York hotel last year agreed yesterday to settle her civil lawsuit against him for an undisclosed sum.

At a brief hearing in New York State Supreme Court in the Bronx, Justice Douglas McKeon said the terms of the deal would remain confidential.

Strauss-Kahn was not required by the judge to appear personally in New York. His accuser, Nafissatou Diallo, was present as the judge had ordered.

The agreement ends a legal saga that began when Diallo, 33, told police that Strauss-Kahn attacked her in his suite at the Sofitel Hotel in Manhattan on May 2011. Her suit alleged that a naked Strauss-Kahn emerged from the bathroom and forced her to perform oral sex. **REUTERS**

▶ Strauss-Kahn was not present for the hearing.

Legal limbo

Strauss-Kahn, 63, filed a countersuit against Diallo in 2012 for defamation. He has said the sexual encounter was consensual, but he has also admitted that it was a "moral error."

The resolution of the civil case brings Strauss-Kahn closer to ending his legal troubles, which have persisted since his return to France after the initial incident.

Strauss-Kahn is awaiting a decision by a French court on his request to halt an inquiry to determine whether he should stand trial on pimping charges related to sex parties attended by him and by prostitutes.

Case glitches

Manhattan prosecutors initially expressed confidence in the evidence, including DNA that showed a sexual encounter. But they dropped the case in August 2011 after developing concerns about Diallo's credibility, including what they said were inconsistencies in her account of what happened immediately following the incident.

McKeon also said a separate lawsuit filed by Diallo against the New York Post over the tabloid's report that she was a prostitute had been settled as well. Terms for that were also not released.

Diallo broke her silence in July 2011, while the criminal investigation was still active, revealing her identity in interviews.

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▶ The golden arches once again live up to their color.

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

McDonald's sales helped by $1 meals

McDonald's Corp.'s sales at established restaurants rose more than expected in November as a renewed emphasis on low-priced menu options, such as $1 Sausage McMuffins and coffee, helped the company bounce back from a rare decline in October, the company said yesterday. Sales at restaurants open at least 13 months were up 2.4 percent in November, easily topping the tepid 0.17 percent increase expected by analysts polled by Consensus Metrix. Still, analysts said it was too early to say that the world's biggest restaurant chain, known for its french fries and Big Macs, had regained its strong lead over rival fast-food chains. "One month does not a trend make ... but it's a nice sign to see them rebound after a horrible October," ITG Investment Research analyst Steve West said. In October, McDonald's posted its first monthly drop in the closely watched performance measure in nine years. **REUTERS**

First in (bumper) fight

NC barred from 'pro life' license plates

A federal judge has permanently blocked North Carolina from issuing an anti-abortion specialty license plate, ruling that offering plates with a "Choose Life" slogan without an alternative supporting abortion rights is unconstitutional. The lack of a plate promoting reproductive freedom in the state constitutes "viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment," Senior U.S. District Judge James C. Fox said.

The judge had granted a preliminary injunction sought by the ACLU of North Carolina. **REUTERS**

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Hospitalized hero

Mandela to undergo more hospital tests

Nelson Mandela, the 94-year-old former South African president and revered anti-apartheid leader, is set to undergo more hospital tests after having a good rest on his second night in the facility, the government said.

A statement from the office of President Jacob Zuma gave no details other than to say, "President Mandela had a good night's rest" and was "in good hands." It also thanked members of the public for their messages of support. **REUTERS**

New year, new bombs

Israel: Iran's nukes must be dealt with

Iran is getting ever closer to being able to build a nuclear bomb and the problem will have to be confronted in 2013, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

Israeli officials would like the United States to take the lead in a military assault on Iran's nuclear sites, but say in private they would go it alone if necessary, describing a nuclear-armed Iran as an existential threat to the Jewish state.

Speaking to foreign journalists, Netanyahu said Israel was sticking to the red line he laid down in September. **REUTERS**

1 Iran could have enriched enough uranium to produce just one bomb in 2013.

Google glitch

Gmail hit with technical problems

Several Google Inc. Web products, including the popular Gmail service, appeared to go dark for users on several continents yesterday.

Google confirmed that "service disruptions" had affected Gmail and Google Drive, its online storage service. The two products are part of Google's Apps suite. By 1:10 p.m., Google's Apps Dashboard monitoring service reported that Gmail and Drive service had resumed. The company did not specify how many users were affected, but the outage prompted widespread complaints on social media on both coasts in the U.S. and other major markets. **REUTERS**

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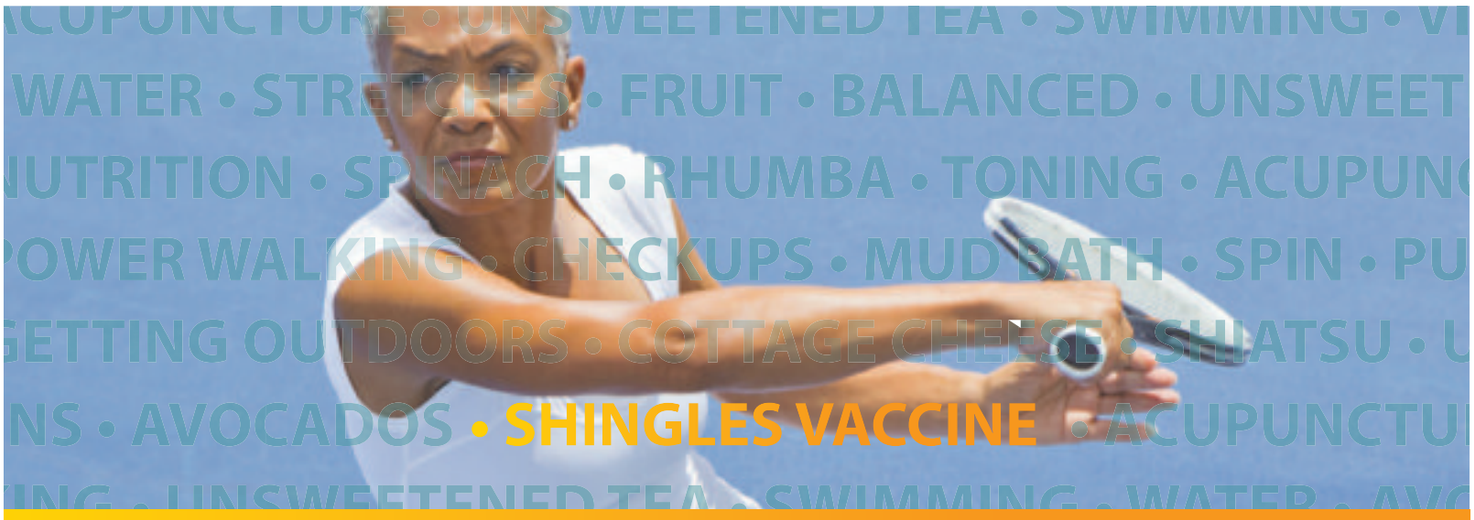

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ZOSTAVAX® (Zoster Vaccine Live) is available at certain pharmacies and medical practices. Talk to your health care professional or visit FIND*ZOSTAVAX*.com for more information.

Now's the time to help prevent Shingles with ZOSTAVAX.

ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that helps prevent Shingles in adults 50 years of age or older. Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. The virus stays in your body and can resurface at any time as Shingles—a painful, blistering rash. And no matter how healthy you feel, your risk increases as you get older.

The sooner you get vaccinated with ZOSTAVAX, the better your chances of protecting yourself from Shingles. In fact, the ACIP* of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends that appropriate adults 60 years of age and older get vaccinated to help prevent Shingles.

Talk to your health care professional to see if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

ZOSTAVAX is given as a single shot. ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat Shingles, or the nerve pain that may follow Shingles, once you have it. For more information, visit ZOSTAVAX.com or call 1-877-9 SHINGLES.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please read the Patient Information on the adjacent page for more detailed information.

*ACIP=Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

ABOUT ZOSTAVAX

ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 50 years of age or older to prevent Shingles (also known as zoster).

Important Safety Information

- ZOSTAVAX does not protect everyone, so some people who get the vaccine may still get Shingles.
- You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including gelatin or neomycin, have a weakened immune system, take high doses of steroids, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. You should not get ZOSTAVAX to prevent chickenpox.
- Talk to your health care professional if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) because it may be better to get these vaccines at least 4 weeks apart.
- Possible side effects include redness, pain, itching, swelling, hard lump, warmth, or bruising at the injection site, as well as headache.
- ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus. Tell your health care professional if you will be in close contact with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care professional can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

Before you get Shingles, get vaccinated.

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Patient Information about ZOSTAVAX® (pronounced "ZOS tah vax") Generic name: Zoster Vaccine Live

9989115

You should read this summary of information about ZOSTAVAX before you are vaccinated. If you have any questions about ZOSTAVAX after reading this page, you should ask your health care provider. This information does not take the place of talking about ZOSTAVAX with your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider. Only your health care provider can decide if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

What is ZOSTAVAX and how does it work?
ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 50 years of age or older to prevent shingles (also known as zoster).

ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus (varicella-zoster virus).

ZOSTAVAX works by helping your immune system protect you from getting shingles.

If you do get shingles even though you have been vaccinated, ZOSTAVAX may help prevent the nerve pain that can follow shingles in some people. ZOSTAVAX does not protect everyone, so some people who get the vaccine may still get shingles.

ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat shingles, or the nerve pain that may follow shingles, once you have it.

What do I need to know about shingles and the virus that causes it?
Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once you have had chickenpox, the virus can stay in your nervous system for many years. For reasons that are not fully understood, the virus may become active again and give you shingles. Age and problems with the immune system may increase your chances of getting shingles.

Shingles is a rash that is usually on one side of the body. The rash begins as a cluster of small red spots that often blister. The rash can be painful. Shingles rashes usually last up to 30 days and, for most people, the pain associated with the rash lessens as it heals.

Who should not get ZOSTAVAX?
You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you:
- are allergic to any of its ingredients.
- are allergic to gelatin or neomycin.
- have a weakened immune system (for example, an immune deficiency, leukemia, lymphoma, or HIV/AIDS).
- take high doses of steroids by injection or by mouth.
- are pregnant or plan to get pregnant.

You should not get ZOSTAVAX to prevent chickenpox.

Children should not get ZOSTAVAX.

How is ZOSTAVAX given?
ZOSTAVAX is given as a single dose by injection under the skin.

What should I tell my health care provider before I get ZOSTAVAX?
You should tell your health care provider if you:
- have or have had any medical problems.
- take any medicines, including non-prescription medicines, and dietary supplements.
- have any allergies, including allergies to neomycin or gelatin.
- had an allergic reaction to another vaccine.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- are breast-feeding.

Tell your health care provider if you expect to be in close contact (including household contact) with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care provider can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

Can I get ZOSTAVAX with other vaccines?
Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as the flu vaccine.

Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) because it may be better to get these vaccines at least 4 weeks apart.

What are the possible side effects of ZOSTAVAX?
The most common side effects that people in the clinical studies reported after receiving the vaccine include:
- redness, pain, itching, swelling, hard lump, warmth, or bruising where the shot was given.
- headache

The following additional side effects have been reported with ZOSTAVAX:
- allergic reactions, which may be serious and may include difficulty in breathing or swallowing. If you have an allergic reaction, call your doctor right away.
- chickenpox
- fever
- hives at the injection site
- joint pain
- muscle pain
- nausea
- rash
- rash at the injection site
- swollen glands near the injection site (that may last a few days to a few weeks)

Tell your health care provider if you have any new or unusual symptoms after you receive ZOSTAVAX. For a complete list of side effects, ask your health care provider.

Call 1-800-986-8999 to report any exposure to ZOSTAVAX during pregnancy.

What are the ingredients of ZOSTAVAX?
Active Ingredient: a weakened form of the varicella-zoster virus.

Inactive Ingredients: sucrose, hydrolyzed porcine gelatin, sodium chloride, monosodium L-glutamate, sodium phosphate dibasic, potassium phosphate monobasic, potassium chloride.

This page summarizes important information about ZOSTAVAX. If you would like more information, talk to your health care provider or visit the website at www.ZOSTAVAX.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

Rx only

Issued June 2011

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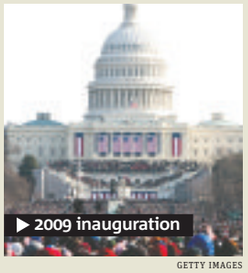
News in brief


▶ 2009 inauguration

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Obama accepts corporate funding for inauguration

WASHINGTON. President Barack Obama's inauguration committee is accepting corporate donations to help fund the parade and other events associated with his Jan. 21 inauguration after tapped-out Democratic donors spent huge sums helping him get elected.

The move is a shift for Obama, who did not accept corporate donations for his first inauguration in January 2009.

Aides from the Presidential Inaugural Committee confirmed it would accept money from "individual and institutional" givers to help cover the cost of public events not paid for by taxpayers. **REUTERS**

Safe havens in Pakistan prevent insurgents' defeat

WASHINGTON. Safe havens in northwest Pakistan prevent U.S., allied and Afghanistan forces from dealing a "decisive defeat" to insurgents, according to the Pentagon's latest assessment.

Pakistan-based sanctuary for insurgents such as the Haqqani network, as well as the financial and operational support insurgents receive from various sources, keep security volatile along Afghanistan's eastern border, the Defense Department said today in a semi-annual report required by Congress.

The report provides an unclassified snapshot of the war in Afghanistan as the Obama administration prepares to assess how many of the remaining 66,000 troops will be withdrawn next year. **BLOOMBERG**

Fiscal cliff talks go on as neither side gives ground

The White House and House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner's office held more negotiations yesterday on ways to break the "fiscal cliff" stalemate, but Republicans said they were still seeking a new offer from President Obama.

With time running out to avert the onset of tax increases and spending cuts that kicks in on Jan. 1 unless Congress acts, the pace of talks has begun to pick up, although neither side gave ground in public.

Boehner met with Obama on Sunday, raising hopes of progress in talks to avert the fiscal cliff that economists say could send the fragile economy back into a recession.

A spokesman for Obama said the lines of communication were still open with Republicans in the cliff talks and Obama believed the two sides could reach a deal.

"The president does believe that we can reach an agreement," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters traveling with the president in Michigan. Neither side offered details of Sunday's face-to-face talks.

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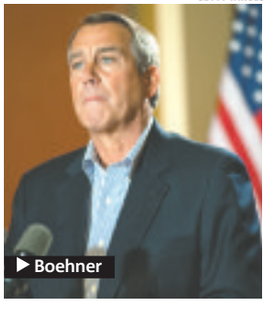
▶ Boehner

Markets ease

Financial markets have calmed recently after a series of wild swings, when nearly every utterance from a politician about the looming budget crisis caused volatility in stock prices.

"We, broadly speaking, continue to engage in this process with important players and stakeholders," Carney said.

Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said Republicans were still waiting for the president to identify the spending cuts he will make in the deficit-reduction negotiations. "The Republican offer made last week remains the Republican offer," Steel said. The two sides were holding staff-level talks yesterday, he said.

Boehner and the House leadership submitted their terms for a deal to the White House last week, after Obama presented his opening proposal. Both sides seek to cut budget deficits by more than $4 trillion over the next 10 years but differ drastically on how to get there.

Obama wants to let tax rates rise for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, while Boehner and Republicans oppose letting any rates increase. **REUTERS**

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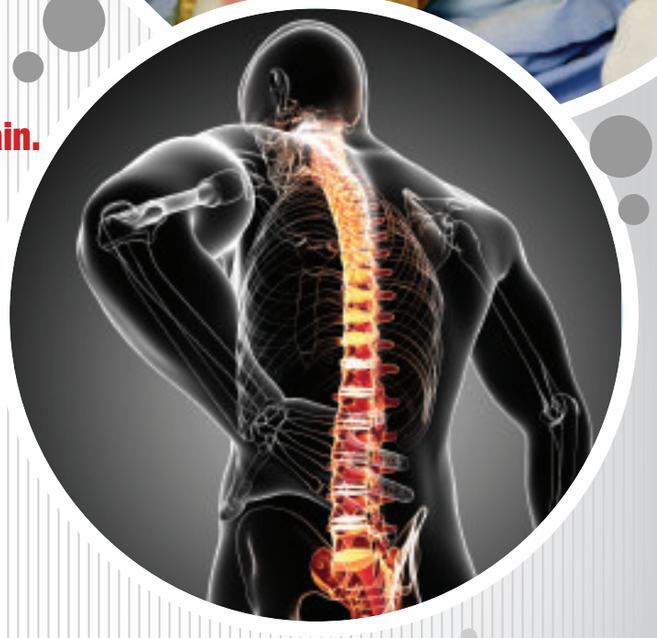

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In the news

Chavez faces cancer surgery

CARACAS. Venezuela's ailing president, Hugo Chavez, flew to Cuba yesterday for cancer surgery, with a vow to return quickly despite conceding for the first time that the disease could end his 14-year rule of the South American OPEC nation.

"I leave full of hope. We are warriors, full of light and faith," the ever-upbeat Chavez said before boarding the flight to Havana. "I hope to be back soon."

Chavez, 58, pumped a fist in the air as he set off for the latest chapter of a tumultuous rule that has included a brief coup, persistent acrimony with the United States and frequent nationalizations, as well as wildly popular anti-poverty programs.

The socialist president first suffered an undisclosed form of cancer in the pelvic region in mid-2011. He had appeared to improve and won a resounding reelection victory in October but now faces a fourth round of surgery for a second cancer recurrence in the same area. **REUTERS**

Australian DJs break silence over royal prank suicide

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The daughter Lisha, husband Ben Barboza and son Junal of nurse Jacinta Saldanha arrive at the Houses of Parliament yesterday ahead of a meeting with MP Keith Vaz in London.

Two Australian radio announcers who made a prank call to a British hospital treating Prince William's pregnant wife Kate broke a three-day silence yesterday to speak of their distress at the apparent suicide of the nurse who took their call.

The 2DayFM Sydney-based announcers, Mel Greig and Michael Christian, said the tragedy had left them "shattered, gutted, heartbroken."

Greig and fellow presenter and prank mastermind Christian have been in hiding since nurse Jacintha Saldanha's death and the subsequent social media outrage at their prank.

Their show, "Hot 30," has been terminated, the station's parent company, Southern Cross Austereo, said in a statement yesterday. SCA also announced a company-wide suspension of prank calls.

Greig told Australian television her first thought when told of Saldanha's death was for her family.

"Unfortunately I remember that moment very well, because I haven't stopped thinking about it since it happened," she said amid tears, her voice quavering with emotion. "I remember my first question was 'was she a mother?'"

"I've wanted to just reach out to them and just give them a big hug and say sorry. I hope they're okay, I really do. I hope they get through this."

GREIG, WHEN ASKED ABOUT SALDANHA'S TWO CHILDREN

Saldanha was found dead in staff accommodation near King Edward VII Hospital on Friday after putting the hoax call through to a colleague who unwittingly disclosed details of Kate's morning sickness to 2DayFM's presenters.

The nurse's family travelled from their home in the western English city of Bristol to meet with politician Keith Vaz.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said news of Saldanha's death was "shocking."

"I just feel incredibly sorry for her and her family. It's an absolute tragedy this has happened, and I'm sure everyone will want to reflect on how it was allowed to happen," he said. **REUTERS**

Egyptian army given power to arrest civilians

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Egyptian army

CAIRO. Egypt's Islamist president has given the army temporary power to arrest civilians to help secure a constitutional referendum seen by the Muslim Brotherhood as a triumph for democracy and by its liberal foes as a religious straitjacket.

President Mohamed Mursi, bruised by the political uproar in which protesters have besieged his graffiti-besmirched palace to demand his downfall, has rescinded a Nov. 22 decree giving him wide powers, but has not budged on the referendum date.

A decree issued by Mursi late on Sunday means the armed forces can arrest civilians and refer them to prosecutors until the results of the referendum are announced. **REUTERS**

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US intelligence unveils scary vision of the world in 2030

GETTY IMAGES

▶ China will surpass the U.S. economically a few years before 2030.

New technologies, dwindling resources and explosive population growth in the next 18 years will alter the global balance of power and trigger radical economic and political changes at a speed unprecedented in modern history, says a new report by the U.S. intelligence community. The 140-page report released yesterday by the National Intelligence Council lays out dangers and opportunities for nations, economies, investors, political systems and leaders due to four "megatrends" that government intelligence analysts say are transforming the world.

Those major trends are the end of U.S. global dominance, the rising power of individuals against states, a rising middle-class whose demands challenge governments and a Gordian knot of water, food and energy shortages, according to the analysts.

"We are at a critical juncture in human history, which could lead to widely contrasting futures," Council Chairman Christopher Kojm writes in the report.

Leading the list of the "game-changers" — factors the report says will shape the impact of the megatrends — is the "crisis-prone" global economy, which is vulnerable to international shocks and to disparities among national economies moving at significantly different speeds.

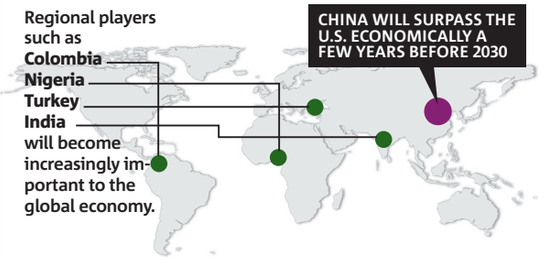
The future is "malleable," according to Kojm. "Our effort is to encourage decision-makers, whether in government or outside, to think and plan for the long-term so that negative futures do not occur and positive ones have a better chance of unfolding."

Climate change will complicate resource management, particularly in Asia, where monsoons are crucial to the growing season and decreased rainfall could disrupt the region's ability to feed its growing population.

Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns are happening faster than expected, Burrows said. When his researchers updated their section on climate change, the new figures showed the rate of change was even greater than it was 18 months before, when they started the project. BLOOMBERG

Asia rising

Power will shift from North America and Europe to an Asia with GDP, population, military spending and technological investment that will surpass the West's, the report projects.


Regional players such as Colombia Nigeria Turkey India will become increasingly important to the global economy.
CHINA WILL SURPASS THE U.S. ECONOMICALLY A FEW YEARS BEFORE 2030

8.3B
A world population that's projected to rise to 8.3 billion from 7.1 billion today by 2030 will add to the strains.

2B
People will be in the middle-class, especially in the developing world; the global middle-class will double in 18 years.

60%
A growing middle-class will flock to cities, increasing the world's urban population by 60 percent by 2030.

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Weekly Photo Tip

Tips for Terrific Holiday Light Photography:

Photographing holiday lights can seem intimidating, but all you really need is a quality point and shoot camera and a bit of insight as to how to ensure the decorations take center stage:

Timing is Key: Some professionals recommend photographing outdoor decorative lighting shortly BEFORE the sun sets. Try to be at your location and ready well in advance. During the dusk period, you'll find a pleasant balance of diminishing ambient light contrasting with the holiday lights, which means you'll be able to include more objects in the background.

Bring Your Tripod: Using a tripod is especially important when photographing holiday lights. A tripod provides stability, something that is particularly critical with low-light photography. It will also keep your image properly framed as the evening light transitions from dusk to darkness. Long exposure images are vulnerable to camera shake, so avoid handheld shooting if at all possible. If you don't have a tripod, find a nearby wall or fence to provide additional support.

Tungsten Setting: Holiday lights use tungsten lighting so you'll want to set your white balance to tungsten as well. Using this setting will provide a nice contrast between the background sky and the lights. With a point and shoot camera, many of today's models have a setting for nighttime shooting. Your flash may fire because it is interpreting that you have a subject that needs to be lit, but unless the decorations are only a few feet away, it won't make much difference. This leads us to our next tip…

Forget the Flash: For holiday lights, it's best to let the decorations take center stage so keep your flash off. A strong D-SLR flash can wash out the image and detract from the final result.

A Shot a Minute Sequence: Once you have everything set, begin taking a photograph every minute or so. Your eyes may not register the gradual changes of the setting sun so track the time with your watch or cell phone. Shoot once per minute or so over a 10-15 minute period. You'll see the changes in evening lighting as you scroll though your shots.

Photographing holiday lights will not only help you experiment with low-light photography, it can also be a great way to share your expertise with the younger photographers in your life. If you have a child or young relative that loves to take pictures, why not bring that budding photographer along? Think of it as a mini holiday photo safari!

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By the numbers

$91,300
Average household income among employed Metro readers

42
Median age of the Metro reader

Bucking the trend: Metro leads the way

▶ Tony Metcalf, Metro US editor-in-chief, added: "We are thrilled that Metro US's hard work and dedication is paying off. Beyond distributing copies at the right time and place, our mission is to engage young, affluent people in a meaningful way that fits their busy urban life."

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There's a common perception that newspapers are dying at the hands of the Internet and the cell phone.

Yet newly released figures about the readership of Metro newspapers in the United States show that the doom-mongers have got it badly wrong.

While America's big paid-for newspapers are struggling badly, Metro, the No. 1 free daily in the country, goes from strength to strength.

The latest readership survey, conducted by Scarborough Research, shows that Metro is the most-read newspaper among employed adults ages 18 to 49 who work or live in Manhattan, Boston Proper and Philadelphia City Center.

The figures also show increases for Metro US in all three cities in which the paper is published. Metro US readership increased by 16 percent year over year to an all-time record of 1.3 million daily readers and 2.5 million weekly readers in three of the top media markets in the United States.

Metro launched in Philadelphia in 1999 and debuted in Boston in 2001. The New York edition followed in 2004. Despite industry-wide declines in advertising and readership, Metro continues to gain momentum.

So what drives the success?

We distribute our papers at the most relevant times and places. We put the papers into the hands of mobile, on-the-go readers who are a highly desirable target market for the advertisers that partner with Metro.

Only Metro has the sheer editorial power — we are part of a global network of 100 newspapers — to persuade superstars like Lady Gaga, Sir Richard Branson or Karl Lagerfeld to become our guest editor-in-chief for the day.

And we provide creative, thoughtful, value-for-money solutions to advertisers, old and new.

"These smashing results further prove the success of Metro's free daily newspaper model. What was once an implausible idea is now the future of newspaper publishing" said Yggers Mortensen, Metro US publisher and CEO.

Metro readership

1,290,591
Daily readers ages 18+

2,468,778
Weekly readers ages 18+

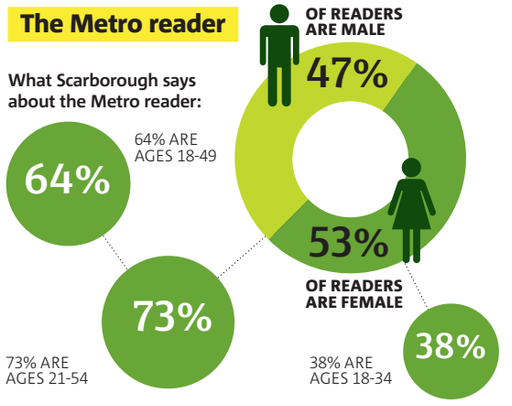
16%
Daily readership increase in the past year

Reader job stats

- **74%** are employed
- **59%** are full-timers
- **47%** are white-collared
- **32%** are managers/ professionals
- **59%** went to college
- **38%** are parents

The Metro reader

What Scarborough says about the Metro reader:



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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Pink is hoping for gladder tidings this season, Channing Tatum is getting very specific with his praise and Russell Brand is feeling adventurous.

@Pink
I'm wishing everyone a little more tolerance this year in their stocking. For the new year. For Chanukah. Whatever you celebrate. After reading some of your responses to my happy Chanukah last night, I feel tolerance is something a lot of you need.

@channingtatum
Big thanks to the kids in Ms. Ochoa's 5th grade class at Poway's Valley Elementary! Great job on your project!

@rustyrockets
Anyone who does the (traumatic) Sydney Bridge Climb today tell "Bernie" the guide my Mum fancies him.

Channing Tatum

Beyonce: Now proudly brought you to by Pepsi

Pepsi is throwing a ton of cash — $50 million, to be exact — at **Beyonce** to make the singer the "face" of the company. Here's what the deal includes:

- Beyonce's face will be found on limited-edition cans starting in March.
- The singer will be featured in TV commercials, the biggest of which will debut after her Super Bowl XLVII halftime performance on Feb. 3. She will also appear in the usual media: billboards, magazine advertisements, etc.
- Pepsi will sponsor her tour.
- And here's where the deal might become an interesting collaboration: Pepsi will fund Beyonce's creative whims, which might not have explicit connection to the soda giant, per The New York Times. This might mean live events, videos, "a cool photo shoot" or anything that Beyonce might think of, said Lee Anne Callahan-Longo, the general manager of Parkwood Entertainment, Beyonce's company.

Is anyone else surprised by this collaboration? I know it's hard to say no to $50 million, but soda is bad, y'all. Isn't she worried about having to help shill something that is known to cause widespread health problems? Or am I just being all **Michael Bloomberg** about this? And, even looking past lending her image to a can of sugar, isn't Pepsi the No. 2 can of sugar? Leave Pepsi to **Kelly Rowland**, girl! You're a Coca-Cola star all the way.

"Pepsi embraces creativity and understands that artists evolve. As a businesswoman, this allows me to work with a lifestyle brand with no compromise and without sacrificing my creativity."
BEYONCE

Beyonce is now shilling sugar.

Moore is off the hook in Miami

Demi Moore is hitting Miami in a big way. The actress has been spotted around town multiple nights in a row at nightclubs and hot spots, living it up until the wee hours, according to Us Weekly. "The whole table was drinking," a source says after seeing Moore's gang kick off a recent night at club FDR. "She sat between two guys and was laughing, having fun." The group then hit up several other clubs before arriving at Rec Room around 4 a.m. "They were all starving," the source says. "They sat in the club eating burgers and fries and drinking beer until the club closed and the lights went on." While Moore's partying has led to problems before, including hospitalization and a stint in rehab earlier this year, a friend insists everything's fine, telling the magazine that the actress is "in a good place" and "open to experiencing new things this year."

▶ Demi Moore's weekend party buddies included Lenny Kravitz.

Talking points

One Direction is of one mind about Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift's latest romance with **Harry Styles** gets the seal of approval from Styles' One Direction bandmate **Louis Tomlinson**, according to Us Weekly.

"I'm happy they're good friends," Tomlinson coyly tells the magazine. "She's a really lovely girl."

Given the amount of time Swift has spent recently with Styles — and the rest of the band, by extension — he's certainly had a chance to get a good impression.

More insight on Lohan's partying, courtesy of Wanted

How serious are things getting between **Lindsay Lohan** and British boy-bander **Max George**? So serious that the troubled starlet has reportedly moved into his band the Wanted's tour bus, according to Hollyscoop.

"[There's] no separate space, she bunks with the boys," the band tells the website. "It's nice to have a girl around. She keeps us in check."

And George has been boasting of the supposedly sober Lohan's partying prowess, telling New York's Z100 radio station, "She always brings vodka to the table."

Doherty calls 911 after suicidal fan reaches out

Celebrities often say they care about their fans, but **Shannen Doherty** means it. The former "Beverly Hills 90210" star called 911 from L.A. recently to get help for a Twitter follower in New Jersey whom Doherty believed was suicidal, according to TMZ.

▶ Doherty

"This is going to sound incredibly strange," Doherty says on the 911 call, obtained by the website. "My name is Shannen Doherty and I'm an actress, and there is a girl who is threatening to shoot herself."

The unidentified 27-year-old woman had sent Doherty messages on Twitter claiming she would kill herself if Doherty didn't call her on the phone.

"My security guys told me to block her because she's aggressive and does very erratic things," Doherty says on the emergency call. "I felt bad for her, to be honest."

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ALL LOCATIONS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Tulle dresses are festive fun for the holidays

1: Skye Edwards rocked black tulle on the Italian version of the "X Factor" on Friday in Milan.

2: Supermodel **Elle MacPherson** dazzled on the red carpet at the Sun Military Awards at the Imperial War Museum on Thursday in London.

3: Diana Ross (seen here with **Psy**) wore a custom-designed tulle gown to perform at TNT's annual "Christmas in Washington Special" on Sunday in D.C.

4: Anna Kendrick wore a silver and blue Georges Chakra cocktail dress at The Trevor Project's 2012 "Trevor Live" Event Honoring **Katy Perry** on Dec. 2 in Hollywood.

5: Taylor Swift wore an Oscar de la Renta gown to the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights 2012 gala on Dec. 3 in New York City.

6: Socialite **Lady Victoria Hervey** attended a private dinner celebrating Remo Ruffini and Moncler's 60th Anniversary during Art Basel Miami Beach on Friday in Florida.

1: STEFANIA D'ALESSANDRO/ GETTY IMAGES
2: MIKE MARSLAND/WIREIMAGE
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CHEW ON THIS

Ricardo Cortes explores the forbidden virtues of the coca leaf ◐ Enjoy Coca-Cola? ◐ The soft drink has sort of a hard history

Ricardo Cortes has made a name for himself with controversial books. In 2005, he published a children's book called "It's Just a Plant," which set out to be the "Heather has Two Mommies" for pot-smoking parents. Last year, he helped make Adam Mansbach's children's book parody "Go the F— to Sleep" a best-seller with his tenderly subversive illustrations of children sweetly (and maddeningly) refusing to go to sleep.

Cortes' latest, "A Secret History of Coffee, Coca & Cola," uses a combination of gritty, mural-like illustrations and painstaking investigative research to explore the relationship between three of the most famous stimulants of all time: coffee, coca leaves (from which cocaine is an alkaloid derivative) and Coca-Cola.

In setting out to make the argument that drug laws should relax around coca leaves (chewed worldwide as a mild stimulant), Cortes begins with the history of coffee. He says the drink many of us enjoy daily was widely prohibited for centuries. Conversely, Cortes argues that coca plants were harmlessly enjoyed until becoming a casualty of the war on drugs — specifically cocaine — that began with the 1930 appointment of U.S. drug czar, Harry J. Anslinger.

According to Cortes, Anslinger spent most of his 40-year career leading the prohibition of coca while simultaneously helping the Coca-Cola Company secure exclusive access to it. In exchange, Anslinger received political gain from the powerful support of the company. "He was giving a back-door to Coca-Cola for their product," says Cortes.

Rather than try to depict handshake deals and shadowy alliances, the most fascinating illustrations in "Secret History" are of letters between Anslinger and Coca-Cola — meticulously rendered by Cortes from public documents. They chronicle how Coca-Cola has maintained access to coca for use in its secret formula (called "Merchandise No. 5") even as the U.S. wages war against the very same plants in South America.

"It's an investigation of rumors," says Cortes of his use of letters as art. "You can find information of Coca-Cola and coca leaf on Wikipedia. But I wanted to have all the primary sources that you could look back at."

Rather than condemn Coca-Cola for using coca, Cortes says he believes that drug laws should relax around the leaf, citing thousands of years of "social, spiritual, medicinal and nutritional" purposes.

JONATHAN DONALDSON
letters@metro.us

If you go

- **Cortes reads from 'A Secret History of Coffee, Coca & Cola'**
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AKASHIC BOOKS

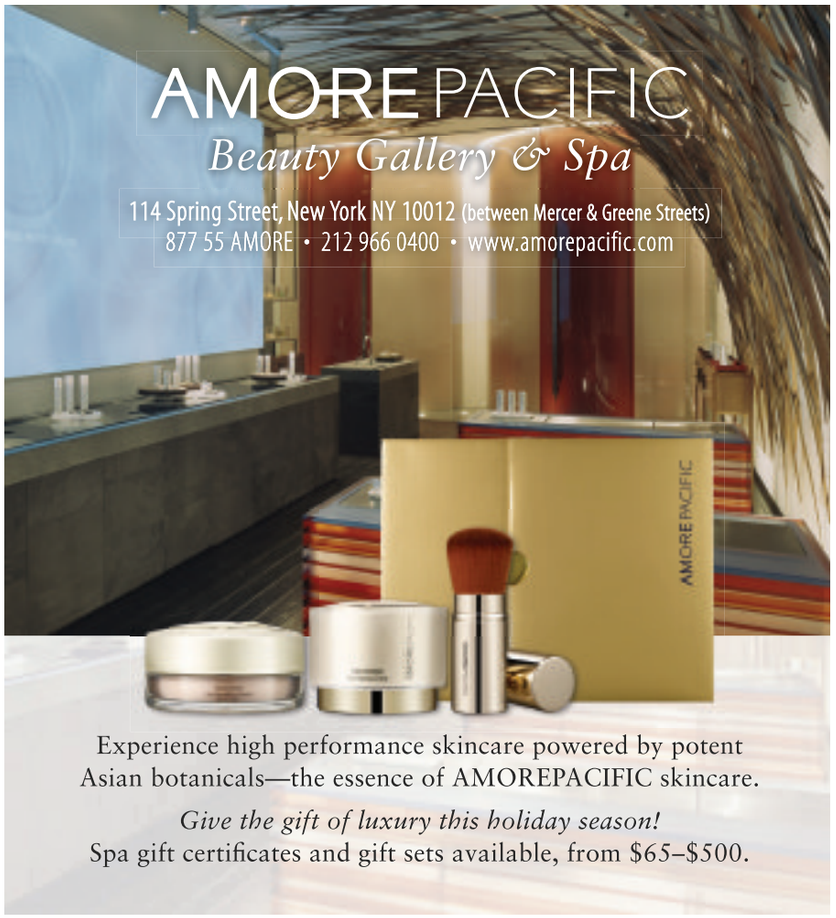
▶ Cortes says there's a reason Coke is it.

While you're at it, sip on some New Coke

Remember in 1985 when Coca-Cola shocked drinkers by changing the formula and rebranding it "New Coke"?

Fans railed in mob-like numbers to bring back the classic formula. This resulted in the drink-maker keeping New Coke but additionally adding back the original "Coca-Cola Classic" just months later.

Cortes is one of many who believe that the change was an effort by Coca-Cola to extract themselves from the political problems caused by using the coca leaf. But Coke won't talk. "They say the secret formula is their most valuable asset," says Cortes. "Therefore, they say that's why they can't talk about it."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TV watch list

'Happy Endings'

COMEDY. The Kerkovich family celebrates 20 years in the mattress biz, while fans celebrate getting to meet the parents (guest stars Christopher McDonald and Julie Hagerty) and learning why Alex and Jane turned out the way they did. **9 p.m., ABC**

'The Voice'

REALITY. The stage becomes half as crowded as it was yesterday when the four remaining contestants find out which two singers are heading to the finale. **8 p.m., NBC**

AMBER RAY

▶ From left: Cassadee Pope, Terry McDermott, Nicholas David and Trevin Hunte are the final four on "The Voice."

TRAE PATTON/NBC

Dolly doesn't give advice

Instead, Parton uses new book 'Dream More' to share wisdom earned over nearly six decades as a musician, actress and philanthropist

If there's an expert in dreaming big and achieving your heart's greatest desires, it's Dolly Parton. Growing up the fourth of 12 children to a poor tobacco farmer in Tennessee, Parton realized her biggest dream — singing on the Grand Ole Opry stage — at the age of 13. Now 66 and a certified country music icon, Parton is sharing her philosophy for success in her new book "Dream More."

"People are always asking me for advice and asking me how to do this, how to do that. I don't give advice. I like to give information and just try to help," Parton says. With that approach, writing her experiences to share in the book "just rolled out," she says.

"Dream More" is based on the wisdom the singer delivered in a 2009 commencement speech at the University of Tennessee. A sweet, concise little book of inspiration, it is broken into four chapters that define the principles Parton lives by: dream more, learn more, care more and be more.

"You have to come up with little slogans ... and I just thought those were beautiful words," Parton says of her preparation to deliver a message of hope to graduates. It was only when she began to expand on those "slogans" for the book that she realized "what all those things really meant for me," she says. "That's really who I am and how I've lived my life."

AMBER RAY
amber.ray@metro.us

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▶ All proceeds from "Dream More" go to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program that mails free books to children to encourage a love of reading. For more information on the book and the organization, visit www.imaginationlibrary.com. And check out our extended interview with Parton on the Metro Monthly Music podcast, downloadable at www.metro.us/mixtape.

Quoted

"People are always asking me for advice and asking me how to do this, how to do that. I don't give advice. I like to give information and just try to help."
PARTON

The power of positive thinking

Despite her hardscrabble background, Dolly Parton's bubbly, oversized personality bursts with warmth and positivity. The power of a good attitude is a message she shares in "Dream More."

"I've always hoped for things to be good, but I've also learned the best way to make things good is to make things good," she says. "If things are really falling apart, don't just fall into that — try to mend it, try to fix it, try to move forward. I still have a lot of hard times myself — when people say, 'Oh, you just seem to be so happy all the time,' I say, 'That's bull-talk' — but I honestly do try to fix things that are wrong."

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Running on Band of Horses-power

South Carolina band work faster than before, thanks to veteran rock producer Glyn Johns ◗ Singer Ben Bridwell on their newfound energy

After a sprawling opus like 2011's "Infinite Arms," Band of Horses wanted to try a more simple approach. So for the South Carolina-based rockers' fourth album, "Mirage Rock," they cut out all the fuss of digital recording and brought in seasoned rock vet Glyn Johns to produce.

"Because the last album was so painful, in a way," starts singer Ben Bridwell, before clarifying, "well, painfully long at least, it made sense to try and do something simple."

Bridwell now has a seasoned crew behind him, because this lineup solidified before recording "Infinite Arms." The result is a dusky country-rock set buoyed by airtight vocal harmonies, and the process of recording went more quickly than its predecessor.

"Once Glyn seemed interested, well, his method of recording strictly analog and live just seemed to take a lot of the guess work out of things."

CHRISTOPHER WILSON

▶ Band of Horses support their drummer, Creighton Barrett, center, and his pursuit of small waves.

If you go

Band of Horses
- **Tonight, 7**
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- **Tonight, 10**
  with Jason Lytle
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Having a reputation for creating rock landmarks didn't hurt: Johns has produced records for the Rolling Stones, the Who and the Eagles.

"His incredible pedigree, the incredible albums that he's produced, that was obviously really enticing," Bridwell agrees. "But the method itself seemed like an obvious direction to go in after the last one was so over-thought."

It's electric ... or it's not

Band of Horses pulls double-duty in New York, playing an acoustic show and an electric one, both on the same day.

"We've gotten used to doing promo stuff where we go to a record store and play and then go do a proper show," says Bridwell. "We're used to packing it in. But I'm not sure that we have ever done two proper shows like this. The original idea was to try and make something interesting happen in New York. Because we have embraced our acoustic side in promos, it's a good way to flip the script."

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Style Q&A

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2 **Zara printed medium heel shoe, $80,** www.zara.com

3 **Mulberry patent leather kitten heels, $485,** www.mytheresa.com

4 **J.Crew Valentina pump, $238,** www.jcrew.com

KENYA HUNT/MWN

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Great gift giving expectations and how to manage them

DIGITAL VISION

▶ When it comes to gifts and your children, more stuff under the Christmas tree isn't necessarily more satisfying.

Your children may have wish lists a mile long, but Denise Schipani, author of "Mean Moms Rule: Why Doing the Hard Stuff Now Creates Good Kids Later," says that when it comes to gifts, more stuff under the Christmas tree isn't necessarily more satisfying.

"The holidays can be sensory overload for adults. It can be that way for your child, too," she says.

Feeling overwhelmed at your children's overwhelming holiday demands? It's up to you to manage their expectations; they can't temper themselves in the throes of the holidays.

"My kids still believe in Santa Claus, and they make their lists," she says. But Schipani makes sure her kids understand these are wish lists and not just a rundown of what they'll get. Choosing one thing from the list allows you to surprise your child, she says. "There's a way for them to feel excited about getting stuff without getting greedy about it."

You won't be a Grinch if your child doesn't get everything they desire — not everybody gets everything they want. And when your kids ask for something that's too extravagant, Schipani points to a chapter in her book titled: "Say 'No.' Smile. Don't Apologize. Repeat as Necessary."

"It's not damaging to say 'no,'" she reminds.

On the big day, tune in to your kid's experience and how he or she is reacting to unwrapping the gifts. If there's a tantrum or you see your child's eyes glaze over, take note.

"The reason they're doing that might well be that you've overwhelmed them," she says.

And it's equally important to notice when you see your child stop and really engage with a toy. It means you've given your child something he or she really enjoys — a gift that's probably sufficient on its own.

Finally, remember to set a good example for your kids and take opportunities throughout the year to remind them of the great things they already have. Avoid cultivating a "more is better" attitude, she notes. "Model the behavior that you want to see."

MARY SHELL
letters@metro.us

When you can't control the grandparents

"There are relatives that are not going to listen, no matter what," Schipani says. But try having a conversation with family members before the holidays. Tell them to consider whether gifts are age-appropriate or whether a combination of quality time and a meaningful gift might be better for your child than an iPod or Xbox.

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myparenting

Holiday activities for your little ones

The city hosts an assortment of festive shows and events throughout the holiday season Family-friendly activities the whole clan will enjoy

'The Three Bears Holiday Bash'
Through Dec. 30
Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre, 79th St. and West Drive, Children: $5, Adults: $8, 212-360-8281
www.cityparksfoundation.org
This variety show celebrates the holiday season in song, dance and puppetry. The kids in the audience have the chance to join in on the performance during a group sing-along to "The 12 Days of Christmas."

'Elf'
Through Jan. 6, Al Hirschfeld Theatre, 302 W. 45th St., from $49, 212-239-6200
www.elfmusical.com
Follow Buddy, a young orphan, as he embarks on a Christmas adventure in this hysterical production that is suitable for the whole family. The story begins when Buddy accidentally crawls into Santa's sack and follows him to the North Pole. He then journeys to New York to discover his family and his identity.

The Grinch's Holiday Workshop
Through Jan. 6, Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 W. 83rd St., free with museum admission of $11, www.cmom.org
Kids can explore a fully interactive exhibit based on Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," which features walls covered in scenes from the book, a simulated sleigh ride with Max the Dog and storytelling sessions featuring Dr. Seuss favorites. Your little ones can also get creative and make their own "rhyming hats," Grinch masks and festive ornaments fit for a tree in Whoville.

Circle Line Santa Concert Cruise, 1:30 p.m. boarding time, Pier 83, 42nd St. and 12th Avenue, Children: $15, Adults: $20, www.circleline42.com
Take the kids on a holiday-themed cruise around New York Harbor with Santa: Children receive a free photo with the man himself and milk and cookies for a snack.

Gingerbread house display at Le Parker Meridien
Through Jan. 3, 119 W. 56th St. $1 gives you one vote for the best house, $5 for 8 votes
Experience some of the most extravagant gingerbread houses you'll ever see, decorated by restaurants and bakeries from across the city. This year's theme is "Landmarks Around the World," and proceeds from ticket sales go toward City Harvest to help feed the homeless. View the houses and vote for your favorite for a chance to win a stay at Le Parker Meridien.

Eloise's Pop-Up Sweet Shop; Plaza Hotel Santa
Open through 2013, The Plaza Hotel Food Hall, 768 Fifth Ave. Santa photos from $29
Try some of Eloise's favorite sweets at Eloise Rawther Sweet Shop, which is open for a limited time for the holiday season. All of the treats are decorated in the 6-year-old's signature colors — pink, black and white. Santa is also at the famed hotel; photo packages with the jolly old elf range from a la carte photos (starting at $29) to the Santa's Plaza Sampler (starting at $99). This weekend, join in on gingerbread house decorating with William Greenberg at 1 and 3 p.m., across from Billy's (found on the concourse level) for $100.

OLIVIA MORROW
letters@metro.us

Must-see

'Radio City Christmas Spectacular: The Rockettes Celebration'

Through Dec. 30, various times Radio City Music Hall, 1260 Sixth Ave., from $46, 212-247-4777, www.radiocity.com
Experience the ultimate New York holiday tradition with the famed Rockettes as they celebrate 85 years. This year's performance showcases various costumes from over the years and a new take on the popular 3-D display.

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▶ It's the 85th anniversary of the Rockettes.

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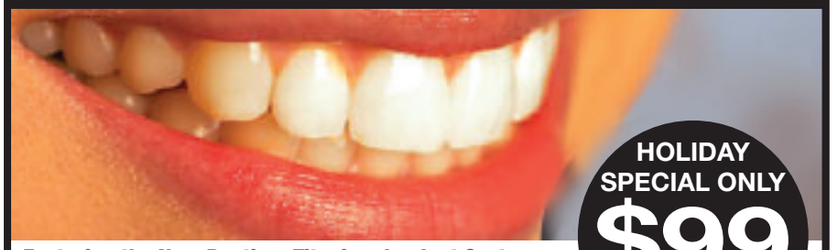

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Letters

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The universal blind spot: Bicyclists

As the sibling of a cyclist who was struck by a car and was blamed for the accident, I have many things to say about cycling in the city. What people need to realize is that it's not the cyclists or the roads that are the problem. It is simply the ignorance of drivers.

What bothers me about this is that drivers never get blamed fully. Drivers need to open their eyes and LOOK — for cars, pedestrians, cyclists, etc.

LIZ PAPI, VIA E-MAIL

The best holiday movie? 'Miracle on Capitol Hill'

Dear Santa: This Christmas I want for my elected representatives in Washington to stop their partisan antics and start problem-solving around that "fiscal cliff" issue that we have. I promise that I have been a good citizen all this past year, so getting this gift by year's end sure would be great. I know how efficiently and collaboratively you and your elves run the North Pole. Maybe we could get Congress to use a few of your tried-and-true strategies. For example, think about how all of you sit down together with honorable intentions, truly listen to each others' ideas and then turn the best of those ideas into a sound plan for delivering all the Christmas toys to all the children across America.

Thanks for everything, Santa, and let's hope Congress gets its act together.

CHIARA NUZZO, VIA E-MAIL

It's not just rich folks who find ways to make ends meet

RE: "THE BEST THINGS TAX RETURNS CAN BUY" (METRO, DEC. 10) Letter writer Christiane Geisler writes: "I am not jealous. I just love my parents and my children as much as rich folks do." Christiane, if you have to make that point you are jealous. "Rich folks" are not the only people who can afford to fly or to help financially with relatives in crisis. As a nonrich person, I have been on the receiving end of financial assistance from other nonrich relatives more times than I can count. I understand it must be hard having family that lives abroad and all over the U.S., but love is not measured in the cost of airline tickets. This is an obvious point, but you seem to resent those who can afford to do more than you can.

KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL

Make the effort to save the planet

RE: "SANDY REPAIRS TO COST BILLIONS, CONGRESS TOLD" (METRO, DEC. 7-9) More severe weather is a reminder that we have opportunities now to diminish the effects of climate change.

We'll avoid some misery and save a bundle in the future if we invest in renewable energy and become energy efficient in transportation, housing, agriculture and manufacturing.

That's a tall order, but as Jimmy Cliff sings, "You can get it if you really want. But you must try, try and try."

PAUL EMILE ANDERS, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It's important for you to establish your own agenda instead of letting associates pick one. You'll know better what is best for you.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. If you're smart enough to recognize it, some information you possess could give you an edge in a competitive career development. Nothing will happen unless you make a move.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Get out and mingle, because social gatherings should prove to be enjoyable, provided the group is small and the topics aren't of a serious nature.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Certain goals can be much easier to attain if you first visualize successfully achieving them and the ways you go about doing so. Use your imagination.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Because your words are likely to carry more weight, listeners will prick up their ears. Be careful you don't reveal anything unintended.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Chances are you'll be more adept than usual at gauging the course of events. Use this gift to anticipate changes that may not be evident to others.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Before signing any type of agreement, you should scrutinize the fine print. Chances are it'll be the little details that turn out to be of real significance, and they could make trouble.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you are on your toes and smarter than competitors, you'll fare quite well — especially when it comes to commercial involvements. Try to anticipate others' moves.

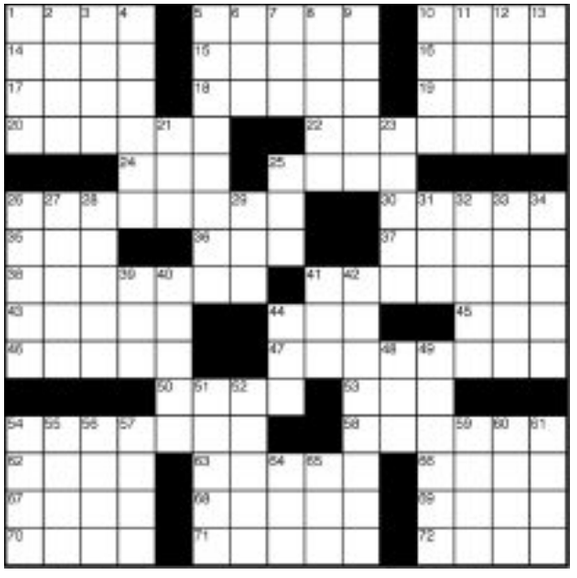
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It behooves you to be an attentive listener when engaged in a conversation with someone who is young at heart. Tips from this person could brighten your life considerably.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** When there is something important you need to accomplish today, there's no need to broadcast it to the entire world. If you want to moan and groan about it, do so only after you've done the job.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you feel you have some good ideas that could benefit co-workers, try to do something about it, even if those who work at your side aren't too supportive. Even setting a good example could help.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Even if you think in small monetary terms, that's OK, because modest profits could quickly add up to a tidy sum. A good attitude could help you find bargains that others overlook.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



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1 Throngs
5 Strongly advised
10 France, long ago
14 Type of lock
15 Reunion attendee
16 All, in combos
17 Lighter- — -air
18 Beauty shop
19 Eight bits
20 Drum up business
22 What spies do
24 Ham on —
25 Mineral finds
26 Kept late hours (2 wds.)
30 — -bopper
35 Levin or Gershwin
36 Codgers' queries
37 Dome home
38 Great numbers
41 Husky
43 Give a leg up
44 Back again
45 Vintage auto
46 Declare invalid
47 Surpass
50 Aspirin target
53 Barely visible
54 Gander (hyph.)
58 Trace element in salt
62 Dashiell's peer
63 Loon, for one
66 Pesky bug
67 Vogue rival
68 "Someone Like You" singer
69 Ms. Bombeck
70 Clancy's Jack —
71 Unbending
72 Projection room unit

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1 Bullfinch topic
2 Molokai neighbor
3 Lesage hero Gil —
4 Guard
5 Lying fallow
6 Estuary
7 Toothpaste choice
8 Pierre's school
9 Overalls material
10 Desert of Asia
11 Tan and Grant
12 A law — itself
13 Debt securer
21 Caustic
23 In a ferment
25 JAMA readers
26 Lion, to Tarzan
27 Shop for clothes (2 wds.)
28 Burr or Spelling
29 Cousins of "um"
31 Kind of trip
32 Jovian moon
33 Makes mention of
34 Vacillates (hyph.)
39 Ames inst.
40 Globe substitute
41 Play about Capote
42 Like many stolen cars (hyph.)
44 Ally opposite
48 Mgmt. biggie
49 Account book
51 It repels moths
52 Fictional orphan
54 Ogle
55 Air France hub
56 Clay pot
57 Piercing
59 As to (2 wds.)
60 Specify
61 Term paper abbr. (2 wds.)
64 Really relax, slangily
65 Wallach or Lilly

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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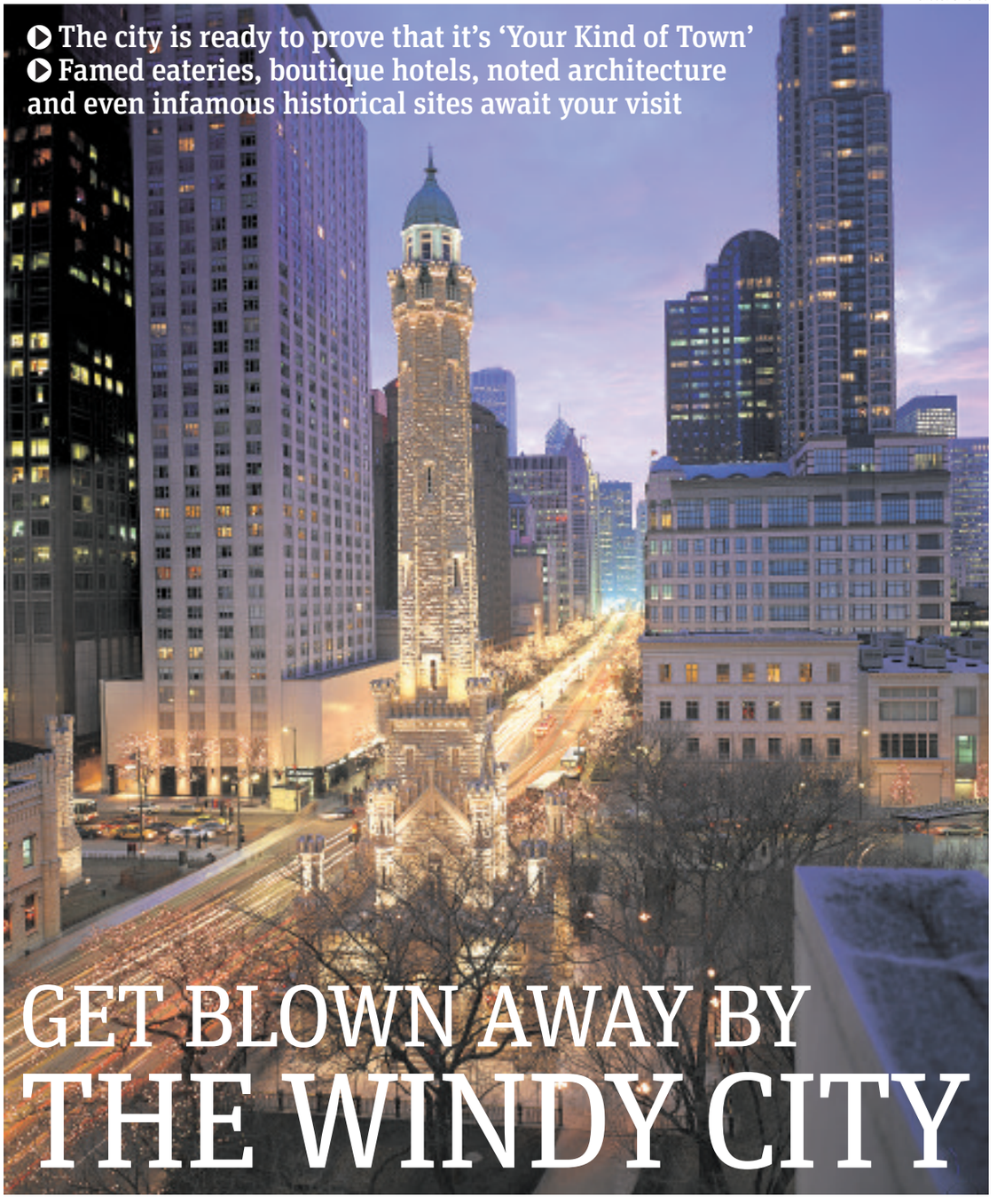

GET BLOWN AWAY BY THE WINDY CITY

With Barack Obama back in the White House and Abraham Lincoln in movie theaters, we thought it was time to immerse ourselves in Chicago — a place with historic ties to both presidents. We hit the north side of the city — specifically Lincoln Park, Bucktown and Wicker Park — to give you this insider's guide.

Presidential digs

Stepping into the **Hotel Lincoln (www.jdvhotels.com)** is like walking onto the set of a Wes Anderson movie. The Midwest meets New England with golden yellows, forest-y greens and a sense of quaint nostalgia reminiscent of the director's "Moonrise Kingdom."

A number of the rooms feature curtains that open like the flaps of a tent, and patterned carpeting guides you through the hallways and suites. While it underwent extensive renovations before being opened by hotel operator Joie de Vivre early in 2012, the 12-story building still retains its historic edge. On the rooftop, an all-season bar offers sweeping views of Lake Michigan, North Avenue Beach and downtown Chicago. Off the lobby is **Perennial Virant (www.perennialchicago.com)**, offering a seasonal menu and featuring pickled and canned ingredients purchased from local growers.

Log on

For more information, visit **www.choosechicago.com.**

Historical hot spots

Prohibition
To get in touch with the city's more infamous history, walk a short distance from Hotel Lincoln to 2122 North Clark St., which was the site of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. It was at this address in 1929 that, at the height of prohibition, Al Capone's south Chicago gang murdered seven rival mob associates.

Architecture
Located at the southern end of Lincoln Park are the mansions and stately homes of the Gold Coast — an area the rich built in the decades after the 1871 Chicago Fire. The Chicago History Museum offers an all-weather walking tour of the **Gold Coast (www.chicagohs.org)**. Be sure to visit the Charnley-Persky House on North Astor Street, which was designed by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Lincoln Park

Across the street from Hotel Lincoln is Lincoln Park, a 1,200-acre retreat from the city nestled on the edge of Lake Michigan. Locals stroll and jog through the miles of trails in this urban getaway. Near the park center is **Lincoln Park Zoo (www.lpzoo.org)**, a free facility featuring a menagerie of creatures, from sea lions to land lions. The animals are like an extended family for locals, who can

A newborn African ape

stroll through at any time and watch as the babies — including two recently born gorillas — grow up.

Bucktown and Winter Park

Located west of Lincoln Park, both Bucktown and Winter Park have seen a resurgence in recent years as established residents and young families mix with students and hipsters. Before you start exploring, grab lunch at **Big Star (www.bigstarchicago.com)** — a whiskey and taco eatery just past the Damen "L" transit station.

Across the street from Big Star is **The Violet Hour (www.thevioletlethour.com)**. The lounge has a nearly hidden entrance and a speakeasy feel. A house rule helps to achieve this — cell phones are left at the door!

▶ The Bristol, the award-winning Bucktown restaurant.

End your day by grabbing dinner at **The Bristol (www.thebristolchicago.com)**, an award-winning Bucktown restaurant. GQ recently named the eatery one of the 10 best new restaurants in America, and with its extensive wine list and seasonal-based creations, it's easily worthy of the title.

DEAN LISK
dean.lisk@metronews.ca

advice

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Don't let this be you.

Some airports are on time more often

More runways means more likelihood of on-time operations. In the New York City area, for example, JFK is more likely to be close to on-time than LaGuardia or Newark, not that any of the three have great on-time ratings overall. And if you are forced to take a connection, look at the chances of weather impacting the connecting airport. Flying through Chicago in the winter is more likely to see a snowstorm impact your flight than connecting in Dallas or Houston.

Survive winter travel delays

Just crossing your fingers won't help an inevitable flight delay or cancellation due to nasty weather

Here are five ways a savvy traveler can circumvent the trip-interrupting wrath of Mother Nature

▶ **Bigger planes are more likely to fly:** When the airlines have to cut flights to account for weather delays, it will be the smaller planes on shorter flights which are cut first. If you have a choice, take the bigger plane.

▶ **Early flights are on time more often:** Delays build throughout the day. Crews running just an hour late may ultimately not be able to operate their last scheduled flight of the day because of regulations regarding the number of hours they can work. Flying earlier in the morning can help avoid those problems, but it may mean an early wake-up call.

▶ **Partner airlines might help you get where you're going:** Planes are more full than ever these days — meaning once a flight is canceled, getting a seat on the next one will be incredibly difficult. Some airlines are more willing than others to work with other carriers to help get passengers to their final destination. Here's a quick look at some of their policies: Virgin America, Spirit and Southwest will almost never involve other airlines. JetBlue will occasionally work with American Airlines. The legacy carriers are most easily able to get other airlines involved. This doesn't mean that they will — not if weather is the cause of the delay — but that's generally the best chance customers have.

Consider the club

▶ **Getting an airline club membership is often an expensive proposition.** But when operations go pear-shaped having easier access to agents at the airport might make the difference between getting on the go and being stuck in the terminal. A number of credit cards include access to lounges in some form or another and, failing that, most U.S. airlines will sell a one-time access option for around $50. Just getting out of the mass of people in the terminal might make that worthwhile.

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14-Day Hawaii $899* pp — Ocean View $999* Balcony $1499*
14-Day Australia $1099* pp — Ocean View $1199* Balcony $2399*

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7-Day Alaska $619* pp — Ocean View $799* Balcony $1199*
10-Day Caribbean $674* pp — Ocean View $914* Balcony $1649*
10-Day Australia $787* pp — Ocean View $893* Balcony $1401*

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7-Day Caribbean $694* pp — Ocean View $844* Balcony $894*
7-Day Bermuda $694* pp — Ocean View $844* Balcony $1144*
10-Day Europe $1289* pp — Ocean View $1439* Balcony $2449*

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3

In the news

Yankees opt out of ticket deal with StubHub

If you want to buy Yankees tickets next season, don't expect to do it through StubHub. The secondary-ticket seller, which has an agreement with MLB, said yesterday that the Yankees, Cubs and Angels are opting out of the agreement. The Yankees have said the site deflates the value of season tickets. They are expected to announce an agreement with Ticketmaster. METRO

In the news

NHL lockout

The march to a season-ending lockout in the NHL continued yesterday.

The league announced it was canceling all games through Dec. 31, in addition to the Winter Classic and All-Star Game, which were already called off.

The NHL met with the players' association last week in order to end the lockout, but talks broke off and haven't resumed.

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▶ Avery Johnson

Nets enter city tilt on losing streak

The Nets have lost four straight games. The Knicks have the best record in the Eastern Conference. They meet tonight, but no one is expecting anything other than an equal contest.

"Those guys are down 0-1 to us," Nets head coach Avery Johnson told reporters at practice yesterday. "They're gonna try to come in and even it."

The game Johnson is referring to is the delayed season opener at the Barclays Center, which the Nets won, 96-89, on Nov. 26. They are 2-4 since and have yet to win a game in December.

"Every team goes through something like this," Nets point guard Deron Williams said. "Hopefully it's the low point in the season. And hopefully we don't have this happen again. We've gotta fight out of it."

The Knicks, meanwhile, are talking about MVP already — specifically their scoring leader Carmelo Anthony.

"Melo is playing at such a high level," Knicks head coach Mike Woodson said after Sunday's game. "There's no question he's one of the MVP candidates in the league this early season."

The Nets host the Knicks at 7 p.m. tonight on MSG and YES Network. METRO

Lopez could play tonight

Nets center Brook Lopez could return tonight, but don't get your hopes up.

Lopez practiced in full for the first time since a foot injury Nov. 28 and was called a game-time decision against the Knicks.

However, Avery Johnson called his chances of playing "not very high" after practice. METRO

Giants still buzzing over dominant win

Big Blue breaks out against Saints ◐ Team: Victory not a 'statement game' ◐ Coughlin at loss as to why team is so good in crucial matchups

Wideout Victor Cruz was among the many Giants still marveling yesterday at how well the team played in Sunday's rout of New Orleans.

But he doesn't feel the win was a "statement game." Rather, he allowed it was just good to win considering the road ahead.

"We just won a ball game against a team that beat us up pretty good the last couple times, and we got a much-needed victory," Cruz said. "I think that's the biggest key. We just want to be able to be prepared and bring this same kind of intensity next week in Atlanta."

This seems about the right time of year when the Giants begin to lock in on a playoff berth, so Sunday's performance may not have come as such a surprise.

But for head coach Tom Coughlin, he'd rather the team's focus be a weekly occurrence and not only when the team is desperate.

"I don't know [how to explain it]. I would hope we would play our best all the time, but that's not the case. We have traditionally done a decent job in certain years when we had no margin for error and our backs were to the wall. If that's the case, let's keep our backs to the wall," Coughlin said. "We have good character, [a] good group of people [and a] high desire factor. But that's what we've talked about week in and week out — establishing consistency.

The message going into the Atlanta game is simple, insists Coughlin. The team will need to take that same focus and intensity on the road and apply it in a difficult environment, especially with two rivals nipping at their heels.

"It'll be the same message, over and over and over, [because] we have a very difficult opponent coming up this week," Coughlin said. "It's about maintaining this one-game lead, understanding the difficulty of our schedule, but understanding also you can't get where we want to go without playing the best and having a chance to beat the best."

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Victor Cruz didn't feel like the Giants had a "statement game," but David Wilson, left, sure did. He rushed for 100 yards and two touchdowns, plus had a 97-yard kick return touchdown.

RB Bradshaw undergoes MRI

Ahmad Bradshaw may not seem as important in the wake of David Wilson's performance, but the veteran back is still a key contributor.

Coughlin said he'd know more about his availability after he'd had an MRI yesterday afternoon.

"I wouldn't speculate on anything right now," Coughlin said. METRO

91 Interception return yards for Stevie Brown on Sunday on two picks — part of a team-record 259 return yards on the season

Jets — yes, those Jets — talking small

The improbable may be happening as the 6-7 Jets are beginning to look like a playoff team — at least record-wise, if not on the field. But when one would think the Jets would turn back into their brash selves, it is all quiet on the big-talk front.

"I'm not going to guarantee a playoff spot," head coach Rex Ryan said. "The fact that we're one game under .500, I think you're probably not in the playoff conversation. For me, we just need to keep our head down and keep winning games. We know the only way we can affect it is to win our games, and we'll see what somebody tells us."

There's still a lot of work to be done, but the team hasn't quit at any point this season. With three games left, one loss would likely mean the Jets' season would be over. Both Cincinnati and Pittsburgh stand at 7-6.

"As a team, you have to take care of business," safety Yeremiah Bell said. "Talk is cheap." KRISTIAN DYER

SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Yeremiah Bell, left, wasn't interested in talking yesterday.

Extent of Hill's injury unknown

Wide receiver Stephen Hill was scheduled to undergo an MRI on his injured right knee yesterday, but results were still unknown at the time of Rex Ryan's press conference.

"Not sure the extent of that injury just yet, [or] really with all the injuries," Ryan said. "Guys are still getting MRIs and things like that."

Hill injured his knee in the first quarter of Sunday's game, slipping on the wet grass. METRO

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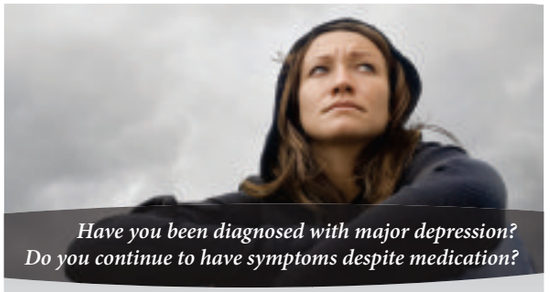

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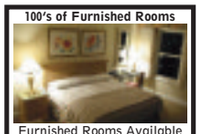
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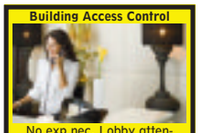

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